



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



THE AMERICAN TRADITION OF AIRCRAFT NOSE ART

This week Lt. Col. Reid Christopherson, South Dakota Air National Guard, and Director Sonja Johnson, South Dakota National Guard Museum, embarked on an educational project with students at the Pierre Boys and Girls Club. Tuesday afternoon was spent discussing the different military branches, the difference between officers and enlisted personnel, the role aircraft has historically played in both federal and state missions. Christopherson, no stranger to the history of aircraft and the Guard, shared his expertise and fielded all sorts of questions from the students.

During the next few weeks the students will construct their model airplanes, study the history of aircraft nose art, design and paint nose art on their respective model.

Nose art, for all practical reasons, began as a way to identify friendly units and evolved as a way to express individuality and personalize a plane for its crew.

At the end of July, the students will present their finished design and will provide the story behind their respective artwork. We'll share their creations with you.



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ADDRESS CHANGE FOR BEADLE COUNTY OFFICES

Effective June 30, Beadle County offices will no longer have post office boxes. Mail for the Beadle County Veterans Service Office should be addressed as follows:

Ken Lindblad, VSO
Beadle County
450 Third St., SW—Suite 103
Huron, SD 57350



TEE TOURNAMENT

The National Veterans TEE Tournament will be held September 10-14, 2012, in Iowa City, IA. This annual event is the brainchild of several employees of the Iowa City Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, along with two visually impaired veterans from Iowa who were attending the 1993 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

These visionaries got together and named the new event, "The TEE Tournament," an acronym standing for Training, Exposure and Experience. The Tournament provides legally blind veterans an opportunity to develop new skills and strengthen their self-esteem through adaptive golf and bowling.

Each year, the event uses a therapeutic format to promote rehabilitation, fellowship and camaraderie among participants.

The Tournament has expanded to include not only veterans who are legally blind, but also amputees, those who use wheelchairs and veterans with other disabilities.

More detailed information can be found on the VA's website at the following link: <http://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/tee/index.asp> or contact Kirk Sickels at (319) 358-5963.



GUARDSMAN RECEIVES MEDAL OF VALOR FOR SAVING CHILD'S LIFE

South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier Maj. Jason Kettwig received the South Dakota Medal of Valor June 15 for the act of heroism displayed while saving a young child's life.

Kettwig, of Milbank, was staying at a hotel with his family in Marshall, Minn., on Oct. 28, 2011, when the event occurred. Kettwig and his family were relaxing next to the hotel pool when he heard a scream from across the pool. He saw a mother diving into the pool to get her daughter, who was unconscious.

Kettwig assisted the mother in pulling her daughter out of the pool and upon noticing the girl had no pulse and had turned blue, he immediately began CPR. The girl started gasping for air after two-to-three minutes of compressions.

Kettwig, who serves with the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, of Brookings, said he credits the combat lifesaver training he received through the military and his local community for his ability to react to the situation immediately.

Kettwig stated that this is a reminder of how important it is for all parents and grandparents to learn CPR, and that the potential for something like this to happen is present every day.

The South Dakota Medal of Valor is awarded to any individual who, while a member of the South Dakota National Guard, distinguishes themselves by heroism, not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy, while in the Armed Forces of the United States. It is awarded for heroism while performing normal civilian functions and/or duties while a member of the South Dakota National Guard.



NO WAITING LIST FOR COUPLES AT STATE VETERANS HOME

The Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home has "couples rooms" available - "No Waiting List" for couples.

If you know of any couples interested in retiring in the beautiful Black Hills, have them contact Larry Wilcox or Ralph Sowder at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home—605-745-5127 or 1-866-502-8999 or email Larry at larry.wilcox@state.sd.us.



USS SOUTH DAKOTA

In 2017, a \$2 billion, nuclear-powered Navy submarine will bear the name South Dakota. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, the highest officer in the Navy, hosted a naming ceremony Saturday afternoon with Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Lieutenant Gov. Matt Michels at the USS South Dakota Battleship Memorial in Sioux Falls to commemorate plans to build the Virginia-class attack submarine.

Construction of South Dakota will begin in 2013 and will be built in Groton, Conn.

Ship naming is solely under the purview of the Navy secretary. Mabus considered states that had gone a significant length of time without a vessel named after them, the caliber of people within states and their support of the military.

When the SSN-790 submarine is finished in 2017, it will have been 69 years since the USS South Dakota battleship, which spent combat time in both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans in World War II, docked for the last time in 1947.

The submarine will be the third Navy vessel to bear the name of the Rushmore state. The first USS South Dakota was an armored cruiser that served in World War I. And the second one, commissioned 70 years ago, served in the Pacific Theater during World War II. The 680-foot-long vessel, nicknamed "Battleship X," was decommissioned in 1947 and spent the next years 15 berthed at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard until it was sold for scrap in 1962. South Dakota wanted to establish a museum to honor the battleship, but it was impossible to bring the massive vessel so far inland. Historians saved some of the key parts for display and built a concrete wall to show its footprint.

The future USS South Dakota will have the capability to attack targets ashore with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert long-term surveillance of land area, littoral waters or other sea-based forces. Other missions include anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare, mine delivery and minefield mapping. It is also designed for special forces delivery and support.



SQUEEZED LEMONS BENEFIT WOUNDED WARRIORS

It was a recipe for success—a warm sunny day, smiling faces, an ice cold glass of lemonade, a cookie, and a commitment to help veterans. Ava and Kassidy DeWaard and their friend Callie Westendorf opened their lemonade stand bright and early Saturday morning at Krull's grocery store in Armour. Most of the stand was decorated in bright yellow and had numerous signs that reminded customers that their contributions for the lemonade would be forwarded to the Wounded Warrior Project. Even Jon Gohn, Veterans Service Officer for the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, journeyed over to Armour, on his day off, for a nice cold glass of lemonade.

Due to the generous support of the guests, Ava and her team raised \$762.00, all of which will be forwarded to the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "honor and empower wounded warriors" of the United States Armed Forces.

Edward Everett Hale once said, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do." Thanks Ava for your commitment to this nation's veterans and for making a difference!!!



NEW LAW ALLOWS VETERAN DESIGNATION ON SOUTH DAKOTA DRIVER LICENSE

South Dakota's Departments of Public Safety and Veterans Affairs remind military veterans that a new law taking effect July 1 allows them to have a veteran designation on their state-issued driver license.

The 2012 Legislature passed the law, which gives honorably discharged veterans the option of adding the word "Veteran" to the front of their South Dakota driver license. Including that designation on the driver license will make it easier for those who have served in the military to verify their veteran status.

"South Dakota is home to over 74,000 veterans who have protected and served our great nation. The launch of this new 'veteran' identification will provide a convenient identification for veterans," said Steve Harding, Deputy Secretary for the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "This initiative is a perfect example of state agencies working together to assist those who have served and sacrificed for our nation."

Veterans who wish to add the designation to their driver license or non-driver ID card may visit any South Dakota driver license office. They will need to present their DD-214, which shows their honorable discharge status from active duty or present a certificate signed by a county or tribal veterans service officer verifying their status. Veterans should also remember that the fee for a duplicate license is \$10 and the fee for a license renewal is \$20.

Cindy Gerber, Director of the South Dakota Driver Licensing Program, reminds veterans that they will need to provide the other documents required of any applicant for a South Dakota driver license. Those documents may be viewed at http://dps.sd.gov/licensing/driver_licensing/obtain_a_license.aspx.

"We are happy to work with Deputy Secretary Harding and his staff to provide this opportunity to the men and women who have served their country honorably in the military," Gerber said. Gerber also said veterans who have questions about the documents or the process may call her office at 1.800.952.3696 or 605.773.6883.

Harding encourages veterans who need assistance with obtaining their DD214 or who have questions regarding their benefits to contact their respective county/tribal veterans service officer or call the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs in Pierre at (605.773.3269).



Upcoming Events

July 2—Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—Black Hills National Cemetery—9:00 am
July 4—Independence Day—State Offices Closed
July 11—SD Veterans Council Meeting—American Legion Post 15—Sioux Falls—10:30 am
July 21-22—Sioux Falls Air Show
Jul. 21—SD Convoy of Hope Stand Down—Rapid City
July 28-29—Thirty-Day Yellow Ribbon Event for the 189th AVN—Rapid City
Aug 4-5— American Legion Riders Chapter 7 Poker Run—Hot Springs
Aug. 15—Veterans Job Fair—Sioux Falls VFW (3601 S. Minnesota Avenue) 10:00 am—2:00 pm
Aug. 23—VABHHCS Stand Down—Rosebud/Mission
Aug. 27-29—VSO Annual Benefits School—Pierre
Aug. 27—VABHHCS Stand Down—Rapid City
Aug. 29—Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Stand Down—McLaughlin
Aug. 30—Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Stand Down— Eagle Butte
Aug. 30– Sept. 3—SD State Fair—Huron (Veterans Day—Aug. 30)
Sept. 11—Stand Down—Wagner National Guard Armory—610 E. SD HWY 46 (10:00 am—2:00 pm)
Sept. 21—Stand Down—Sioux Falls - VFW— 3601 S. Minnesota Ave. (9:00 am—3:00 pm)
Sept. 25—Stand Down—Aberdeen Civic Center—203 S. Washington (2:00 pm—7:00 pm)
Sept. 25 Pierre Homeless Connect

S.O.S. - - ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES NEEDED!

SDNG Museum Director Sonja Johnson is in search of used artificial Christmas trees for a display at the museum. If you are interested in donating a tree, please give Sonja a call (605-773-2375). Her goal is to decorate a tree for each of the war eras that the SDNG served.



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